

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

GERRY WILLIAMS,

Plaintiff,

v.

C/O T. MILLER,

Defendant.

No. C 10-1005 SI (pr)

**ORDER DENYING REQUESTS FOR  
COUNSEL AND A REPLY; SETTING  
BRIEFING SCHEDULE**

Plaintiff has requested that counsel be appointed to assist him in this action. A district court has the discretion under 28 U.S.C. §1915(e)(1) to designate counsel to represent an indigent civil litigant in exceptional circumstances. *See Wilborn v. Escalderon*, 789 F.2d 1328, 1331 (9th Cir. 1986). This requires an evaluation of both the likelihood of success on the merits and the ability of the plaintiff to articulate his claims pro se in light of the complexity of the legal issues involved. *See id.* Neither of these factors is dispositive and both must be viewed together before deciding on a request for counsel under § 1915(e)(1). Here, exceptional circumstances requiring the appointment of counsel are not evident. The request for appointment of counsel is DENIED. (Docket # 30.)

Plaintiff has filed a motion for an order requiring defendant to reply to plaintiff's complaint rather than to permit defendant to utilize the waiver of reply allowed under 42 U.S.C. § 1997e(g). Before plaintiff filed his motion, however, defendant had filed a waiver of reply, as was his right under 42 U.S.C. § 1997e(g). (The "reply" referred to in § 1997e(g) appears to be the answer to the complaint.) At this time, defendant will not be required to file an answer to the complaint. Plaintiff's motion to require a reply is DENIED. (Docket # 27.) The court will, however, set a briefing schedule for dispositive motions.

1           1.       In order to expedite the resolution of this case, the following briefing schedule for  
2       dispositive motions is set:

3               a.       No later than **June 22, 2012**, defendant must file and serve a motion for  
4       summary judgment or other dispositive motion. If defendant is of the opinion that this case  
5       cannot be resolved by summary judgment, defendant must so inform the court prior to the date  
6       the motion is due.

7               b.       Plaintiff's opposition to the summary judgment or other dispositive motion  
8       must be filed with the court and served upon defendants no later than **July 27, 2012**. Plaintiff  
9       must bear in mind the following notice and warning regarding summary judgment as he prepares  
10      his opposition to any summary judgment motion:

11           The defendants may make a motion for summary judgment by which they seek to have  
12      your case dismissed. A motion for summary judgment under Rule 56 of the Federal  
13      Rules of Civil Procedure will, if granted, end your case. . . . Rule 56 tells you what you  
14      must do in order to oppose a motion for summary judgment. Generally, summary  
15      judgment must be granted when there is no genuine issue of material fact -- that is, if  
16      there is no real dispute about any fact that would affect the result of your case, the party  
17      who asked for summary judgment is entitled to judgment as a matter of law, which will  
18      end your case. When a party you are suing makes a motion for summary judgment that  
19      is properly supported by declarations (or other sworn testimony), you cannot simply rely  
20      on what your complaint says. Instead, you must set out specific facts in declarations,  
21      depositions, answers to interrogatories, or authenticated documents, as provided in Rule  
22      56(e), that contradict the facts shown in the defendants' declarations and documents and  
23      show that there is a genuine issue of material fact for trial. If you do not submit your own  
24      evidence in opposition, summary judgment, if appropriate, may be entered against you.  
25      If summary judgment is granted, your case will be dismissed and there will be no trial.  
26      (*See Rand v. Rowland*, 154 F.3d 952, 962-63 (9th Cir. 1998).)

27      Plaintiff also should take note that a defendant may file a motion to dismiss for failure to exhaust  
28      administrative remedies instead of, or in addition to, a motion for summary judgment. A motion  
29      to dismiss for failure to exhaust administrative remedies under 42 U.S.C. § 1997e(a) will, if  
30      granted, result in the termination of the action. The plaintiff must "develop a record" and present  
31      it in his opposition to dispute any "factual record" presented by a defendant's motion to dismiss.  
32      *Wyatt v. Terhune*, 315 F.3d 1108, 1120 n.14 (9th Cir. 2003).

33               c.       If defendant wishes to file a reply brief, the reply brief must be filed and  
34      served no later than **August 13, 2012**.

35           2.       All communications by plaintiff with the court must be served on a defendant's

1 counsel by mailing a true copy of the document to defendant's counsel. The court may disregard  
2 any document which a party files but fails to send a copy of to his opponent. Until a defendant's  
3 counsel has been designated, plaintiff may mail a true copy of the document directly to  
4 defendant, but once a defendant is represented by counsel, all documents must be mailed to  
5 counsel rather than directly to that defendant.


6 3. Discovery may be taken in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.  
7 No further court order under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 30(a)(2) or Local Rule 16 is  
8 required before the parties may conduct discovery.

9 4. Plaintiff is responsible for prosecuting this case. Plaintiff must promptly keep the  
10 court informed of any change of address and must comply with the court's orders in a timely  
11 fashion. Failure to do so may result in the dismissal of this action for failure to prosecute  
12 pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b). Plaintiff must file a notice of change of  
13 address in every pending case every time he is moved to a new facility.

14 5. Plaintiff is cautioned that he must include the case name and case number for this  
15 case on any document he submits to this court for consideration in this case.

16 IT IS SO ORDERED.

17 Dated: April 9, 2012

  
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SUSAN ILLSTON  
United States District Judge